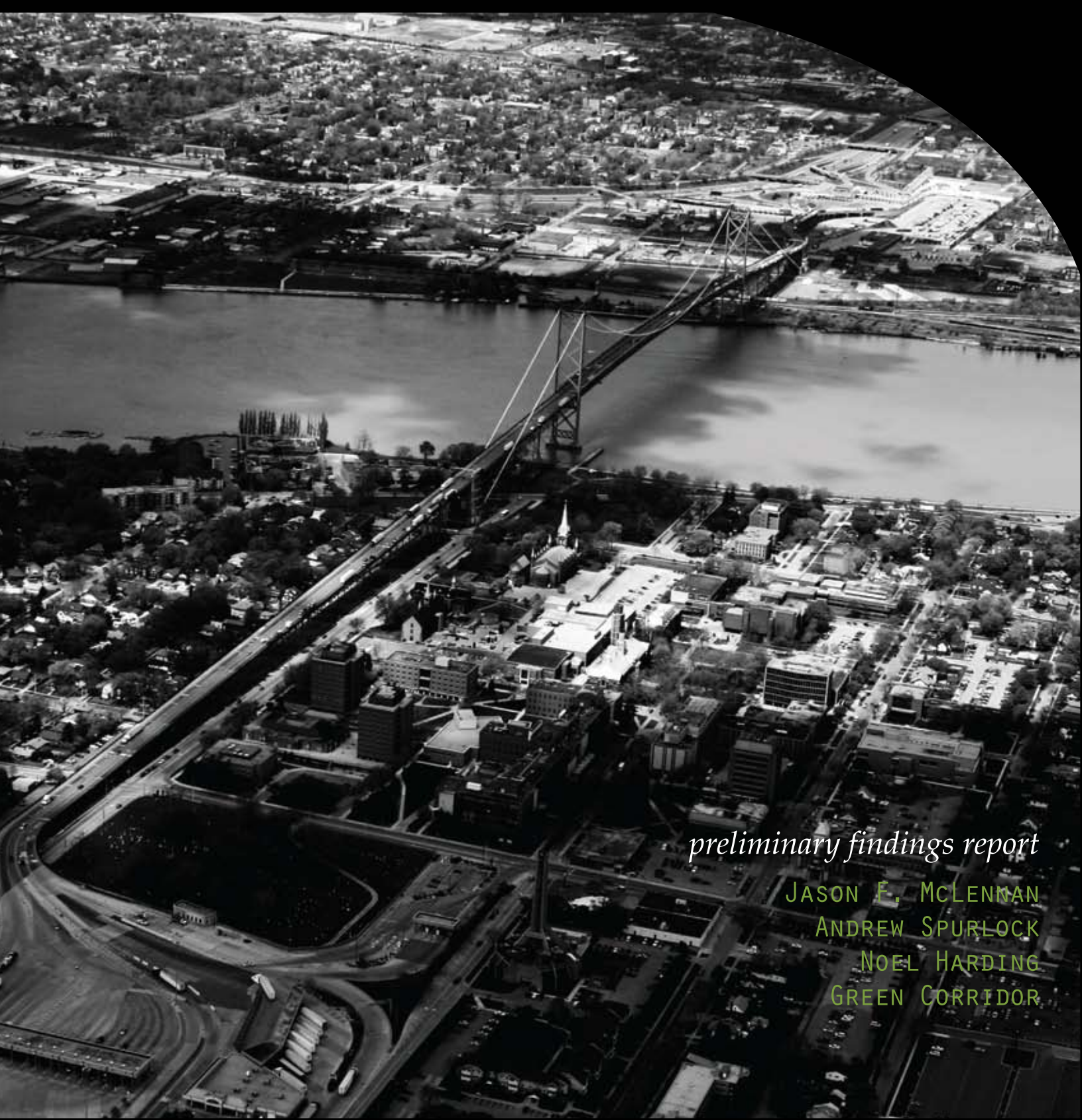


OVERVIEW

AESTHETIC & ENVIRONMENTAL VISION PLAN

TRANSFORMATION



preliminary findings report

JASON F. MCLENNAN
ANDREW SPURLOCK
NOEL HARDING
GREEN CORRIDOR

FOREWORD



It gives me great pleasure to initiate an *Aesthetic & Environmental Vision Plan (AEVP)*, which sets out a preliminary design for the University's development and challenges us to think creatively, boldly and with pride in forging its implementation, now and far into the future.

This plan brands the University's location at the crossroads of North America as an enviable advantage. It builds on our environmental pinnacle and raises dramatically our reputation and profile. It recognizes our challenges and fiscal limitations and it inspires us to work diligently to overcome them. At the same

time, it underlines the crucial responsibilities of the University to its internal constituents as well as the surrounding community of which it is such a vital part.

We intend to circulate this publication widely to stimulate discussion and to seek support. It shows us that we can be: a beacon of hope in a struggling region, an exemplary citizen in the century of environmental sustainability and responsibility, and a visionary leader in the development of an outstanding aesthetic presence at the hub of the world's greatest trading partnership.

Through the leadership of Noel Harding and Rod Strickland and their Green Corridor project, the transformation has already begun. The berming of our new stadium, the Huron Church Nature Bridge, the sound-mapping of Huron Church Road, the Eco-House, the greening of residence rooftops and many other projects, current and forthcoming, are changing our campus and environs. This report, prepared with Jason McLennan, Andrew Spurlock and Noel Harding is ambitious and achievable in its vision, will spur that change and I am most appreciative of everyone who has participated in its development.

The University of Windsor will develop and flourish as it helps transform our region of Ontario, though it will face very important choices in that development, choices that must be driven by the 10 guiding principles set out in this Report. This University must be exemplary in its leadership, its creativity, its vision and its environmental responsibilities as this century of promise and hope unfolds.

The AEVP shows the way. It is time to make it operational. We welcome your comments and ideas.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ross Paul'.

Ross Paul
President, University of Windsor
May 2008



Students at the University of Windsor have long recognized the remarkable potential of this institution, given our unique geographical position.

We applaud the *Aesthetic & Environmental Vision Plan* (AEVP) and all that it represents for our campus community. The principles set out in this plan are a positive indication of our movement towards environmental sustainability, while providing a much needed aesthetic upgrade to our academy.

Fully recognizing the economic and physical infrastructure challenges faced on this campus, students look forward to the considerable boost in pride, which would no doubt result from the implementation of the recommendations as set out within the AEVP. We would further like to extend our sincere appreciation to the members of the AEVP committee for their exemplary commitment to this key project for the University.

We acknowledge that the guidelines set out in the AEVP are important components to the progress of our establishment. Our hope is that such economically demanding initiatives are woven into the budget with careful consideration of our fundamental responsibility as a primarily academic institution.

Tiffany Gooch
President
University of Windsor Students' Alliance
May 2008





INTRODUCTION

The University of Windsor is located at the crossroads of North America, 15 minutes from the start of Highway 401 or Interstate-75, and facing one of Canada's most beautiful waterfronts on the Windsor-Detroit narrows. Its geography places it at a noteworthy intersection of physical, cultural, environmental, social and technological forces.

The *Aesthetic & Environmental Vision Plan* (AEVP) is intended to provoke a geography of identity for the University of Windsor as an iconic campus for the 21st century.

The key to applying this vision is to harness the creativity within this community to consider and address the relationship between opportunities and the complex challenges that exist. It is only through a pervasive and diverse creativity that a formidable mountain of limits and boundaries can be conquered.

The University of Windsor today is at a very physical and intense intersection: a transportation artery (economic jugular), a border crossing (values of a nation), cultural diversity (justice), environmental degradation (world health), and the automobile (global energy), which together can create a new and lasting centre of excellence.



VISION STATEMENT

Our aim is to provide a roadmap to focus the visual, aesthetic and environmental transformation of the University of Windsor campus, while defining a unique sense of place at the Windsor-Detroit narrows. The goal is to establish a place and a situation that embody the issues and opportunities of our time: where a major university is addressing the social, economic and environmental issues as a gateway of learning and as a national resource.

AIMS

The first step toward an Aesthetic Environmental Vision Plan is the adoption of the Windsor Principles. Informing the community with the opportunities for transformation is essential to successfully engage the vision. Five key initiatives were established as interim projects undertaken to emphasize the urgency and benefit to the University.



CAMPUS STRENGTHS

- Location, site, history and geography make Windsor potentially unique;
- Connection of issues to institutional mission could provide national leadership;
- Unique connection to the United States and its huge market;
- Opportunities for expansion with allied colleges and establishment of a river connection, and
- Opportunity to forge a fresh new identity with relevance to the 21st century and the attraction of the new student.

CAMPUS CHALLENGES

- Building institutional esteem;
- Limited capital resources to devote to infrastructure change;
- Fragmented direction with regards to architecture and physical infrastructure;
- Struggling economy affects endowments and campus activity;
- Lack of campus image, identity through architecture and landscape, and
- Significant deferred maintenance issues and under-staffed and under-funded facility and maintenance teams.



THE WINDSOR PRINCIPLES

In order to successfully overcome these challenges we have developed ten principles, the Windsor Principles, which will guide our future actions. The Windsor Principles will ensure that faculty, students and staff have the appropriate direction and guidelines to successfully transcend both present and future challenges.

1. **Creative Community Principle** - Decisions made by the academy with regards to the physical environment of the campus should embrace the creative community as a catalyst for the implementation of change.
2. **Triple Bottom Line Principle** - Decisions made by the academy with regards to the physical environment of the campus should be made to honour the “triple bottom line” of social, economic and environmental health – without sacrificing any of them – rather than simply the economic bottom-line. The Triple Bottom Line Principle assumes a pervasive integration of curriculum.

TEN GUIDING
WINDSOR PRINCIPLES
FOR CAMPUS
TRANSFORMATION

3. **Global Leadership Principle** - Decisions made by the academy with regards to the physical environment of the campus should be done with an attitude of international leadership and high quality.
4. **Persistent Pedagogy Principle** - Decisions made by the academy with regards to the physical environment of the campus should be approached so that each intervention provides an opportunity to teach, inspire, learn and enrich lives.
5. **Beauty and Place-Making Principle** - Decisions made by the academy with regards to the physical environment of the campus should be approached so that each intervention enhances and beautifies the place and sets it apart as unique in the academic world.
6. **Integration Principle** - Decisions made by the academy with regards to the physical environment of the campus should be done in a way that recognizes the inter-connectedness of various departments, disciplines and systems, and accounts for the impacts to each.
7. **Holistic Process Principle** - Decisions made by the academy with regards to the physical environment of the campus should be done using a process that allows sufficient time and includes sufficient expertise to realize success.
8. **Authenticity and Integrity Principle** - Decisions made by the academy with regards to the physical environment of the campus should be done so that each action, regardless of how small, embodies the values of the institution and the Aesthetic & Environmental Vision Plan.
9. **Measurement and Verification Principle** - Decisions made by the academy with regards to the physical environment of the campus should be based upon a solid understanding of the past and the success and failure of prior decisions.
10. **The 100 Year Institution Principle** - Decisions made by the academy with regards to the physical environment of the campus should be made to maximize the long-term investment of the organization and, where possible, to select solutions, designs and investments that will be durable and relevant for at least the next one hundred years.

INTERIM INITIATIVES

Campus Spine 'Mainstreet' Vision

A critical opportunity exists to create a transformative 'beautiful' internal campus spine through the heart of campus. The skeleton of this campus spine already exists along the Patricia Road corridor. The vision allows for a diverse array of uses including circulation, small group gathering, one large congregation space, space for informal student recreation and a key processional element. This area of campus should become the signature internal moment on the campus. A professional landscape plan must be created to transform this space.

Building on the idea of the campus spine, is the creation of a new village centre or Campus Main Street that runs through the campus on Sunset Avenue. The village concept provides core commercial and recreational opportunities for all the community that would draw visitors to campus. As with the campus spine, the Campus Main Street plan should clearly specify all elements needed to create a great commercially and socially enlivened space.

The Campus Spine 'Mainstreet' Vision outlines the potentials and opportunities of the Mainstreet concept with an effective methodology consistent to the 'Windsor Principles' that would jump-start the entrepreneurial aspects of the Mainstreet (Campus Spine) concept. This summary identifies the feasibility of the concept and examines the approximate size and extent of commercial development opportunities on campus. Prepared by Jason McLennan, CEO, Cascadia Region Green Building Council, the goal was to assist the University in setting priorities based on understanding the general magnitude of the institution's potential. A Mainstreet design phase would follow as a next step forward.

The RFP process

The intention of the RFP Process summary is to illuminate and present possible amendments or modifications to the current RFP process, which would support and align the goals established in the Windsor Principles. This section will outline various RFP selection options which use a collaborative, multi-disciplinary approach that will insure the enhancement of aesthetic quality and environmental performance of the campus. The summary should be seen as an integral part of the long-term strategy to transform the built environment experience of the campus, its environmental impacts and the associated energy and resource costs.

Resource Efficiency Strategy Review

Prepared by Ron Perkins, Supersymmetry USA, Inc. as a mapping of opportunities and retrofit ideas related to central plant and university facilities. This is a summary analysis as a “walk-through energy audit” for inclusion in the Aesthetic Environmental Vision Plan initiative. The intention was to inform the university and staff on usage of resources and how it compares to best practice at other similar facilities. It is generally understood that the university’s energy/resource use is closely linked to the ongoing effort to improve the local environs and quality of life. The document identifies potential opportunities for the campus to finance specific upgrades through efficiency improvements.

AEVP Publication and Distribution

The completed AEVP document “Transformation – Preliminary Findings Report” is printed as a limited volume and distributed as the central in-depth outline toward accomplishing an Aesthetic Environmental Plan. A further synopsis and overview of the Transformation Document is being distributed across the fabric of the University. It is being distributed across the fabric of the University. A downloadable PDF file of the complete *AEVP Transformation* document can be found at www.uwindsor.ca/aevptransformation

Engage the Community

We will be methodically engaging key groups on campus, including but not limited to students, faculty and staff, to further express the AEVP vision and acquire feedback, input and resources toward the creation of the plan. It is our desire to gain buy-in from the entire campus community and we will provide all our citizens an opportunity to contact us with further questions, comments and input.

Jody Pinto, Amphitheater, Pasadena City College, California



AUTHORS' BIOGRAPHIES

Jason F. McLennan serves as the CEO of the Cascadia Green Building Council, the Pacific Northwest's leading organization in the field of green building and sustainable development. He is the author of the Living Building Challenge an international green building program and co-creator of Pharos, the most advanced building material rating system in North America. Jason is known as an international thought leader in the green architecture movement and has lectured on sustainability across the US and Canada. His work in the sustainable design field has been published or reviewed in dozens of journals, magazines conference proceedings and books including *Architecture*, *Architectural Record*, *Dwell*, *The Globe and Mail*, *The World and I*, *Ecostructure* and *Environmental Design and Construction Magazine*. He is the author of three books; *The Philosophy of Sustainable Design*, *The Dumb Architect's Guide to Glazing Selection*, and *the Ecological Engineer*. *The Philosophy of Sustainable Design* is currently used as a textbook in over 30 universities and is distributed widely throughout Europe and North America. He is a former Principal at BNIM Architects, one of the founders of the green design movement in the United States, where he worked on many of the leading high performance projects in the country including LEED Platinum, Gold and zero energy projects. Jason is also the founder and CEO of Ecotone Publishing, the only dedicated green building publisher in North America.

Andrew Spurlock (Spurlock Poirier Landscape Architects, San Diego) has more than 30 years of experience as a landscape architect with a strong background in community planning, master planning, campus planning and landscape architecture. His awards include being named a fellow by the American Society of Landscape Architects as well as receiving design awards from the National Society, the American Institute of Architects President's Merit Award and the American Planning Association merit award. His extensive work with the University of California includes the Master Plan and design of the Academic Court at Jacobs School of Engineering; the Scripps Institution of Oceanography Neighborhood Master Plan; the North Campus Neighborhood Plan; Rady School of Management Plan and the School of Engineering's Academic Mall Master Plan. He developed the Science Hill Master Plan at the University of California, Santa Cruz and the Landscape Master Plans for Los Angeles City College and California State University, San Marcos. Spurlock's park projects include the 55-mile-long San Diego River Park, the Montevalle Community Park, Tijuana Estuary Interpretive Center and Petco Park, home of the San Diego Padres. Other projects include the J. Paul Getty Center Central Garden with artist Robert Irwin. In 2007 Spurlock received the Landscape Award for Santa Monica's Virginia Avenue Park by the Los Angeles Business Council, the first LEED Silver park in the United States.

Noel Harding is a Canadian artist and urban innovator recognized for his monumental scale public art projects and environmental sculptures. He is well known for 'The Elevated Wetlands' where vegetation lives in recycled plastic soil while cleaning polluted water. Harding brings extensive experience and creativity in the integration of design, art and nature. In general, his work is an engagement in public urban realities: planning, envisioning, and mapping. His planning experience includes Master Plan - Public Art, Ft. Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport, Florida; Design Consultant, Master Site Plan, Waterfront Village, Thunder Bay and the Planning and Conceptual Design for Eau Claire Plaza Calgary. Harding is a member of the City of Toronto's Art Committee for Public Places, the Royal Canadian Academy of Art and the International Kunster Gremium in Berlin. He has taught at the Ontario College of Art & Design, University of Guelph, and the International Masters Program at Dutch Art Institute in the Netherlands. Harding has exhibited and lectured extensively internationally and his work is in collections that include The Art Gallery of Windsor; Vancouver Art Gallery; National Gallery of Canada; Art Gallery of Ontario; Museum of Modern Art, New York; the City of Amsterdam; Hara Museum, Tokyo and Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels. Noel Harding is a Guest Artist to the University of Windsor.

Green Corridor initiated by Artists **Noel Harding** and **Rod Strickland** engages the communities of Windsor in the re-imagining of the international border crossing linking Canada to the United States. The creation of this environmental gateway to Canada at Windsor, Ontario, harnesses the capacity of interdisciplinary and multi-institutional collaboration. Artists, engineers, environmentalists, social scientists, politicians, city planners, educators, students, businesses and community residents, are engaged in the development of a series of community-based aesthetic and environmentally innovative creative projects. Each project employs scientific methods to implement changes that reflect the creative collaboration of community members and artists. Rod Strickland is a faculty member in the University of Windsor School of Visual Arts. His sculpture and installation work explores nature and technology in a post-industrial landscape and has exhibited throughout North America.



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